

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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**SENATE BILL 236
Insurance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/9/11**

Short Title: Local Events Priority/Convention Center. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 8, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO LOCAL EVENTS AT SPECIFIED PUBLICLY OWNED
3 CONVENTION CENTERS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this act:

- 6 (1) Black-out period. – A period provided in a booking contract during which a
7 directly competing event can be blocked from using the same publicly
8 owned convention facility as the event provided for in the booking contract.
- 9 (2) External event. – An exhibition or event planned, coordinated, financed, and
10 promoted by a sponsor whose principal business location is outside the
11 jurisdiction of the public owner/operator and which utilizes fewer than 500
12 hotel room nights.
- 13 (3) Local event. – An exhibition or event planned, coordinated, financed, and
14 promoted by a local sponsor which utilizes fewer than 500 hotel room
15 nights.
- 16 (4) Local sponsor. – An organization the principal business location of which is
17 located within the jurisdiction of the public owner/operator, with a
18 membership of at least 100 businesses and individuals, with at least ten
19 percent (10%) of its membership being composed of local businesses or
20 individuals subject to the taxing authority of the public owner/operator, and
21 with an annual budget averaged over the preceding three years of no less
22 than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).
- 23 (5) Public owner/operator. – A city government subject to Chapter 160A of the
24 General Statutes or a county government subject to Chapter 153A of the
25 General Statutes with a population, as measured in the most recent census, of
26 at least 100,000 and no more than 300,000 or regional authorities comprised
27 of two or more city or county governments representing a cumulative
28 population of at least 250,000 and no more than 500,000 that own or operate
29 a publicly owned convention facility.
- 30 (6) Publicly owned convention facility. – A convention or civic center facility
31 for which at least fifty percent (50%) of the cost of construction was paid
32 for, or guaranteed, by public funds, including, without limitation, special
33 purpose or general obligation bonds.

34 **SECTION 2.** Publicly Owned Convention Center Booking Policy. – Any public
35 owner/operator shall promulgate and enforce booking policies for its publicly owned
36 convention facility which accommodate the needs of local sponsors. Such booking policies



1 shall provide a higher priority category for local events than for external events. This
2 requirement shall not be interpreted to require priority for local events over priority categories
3 based on utilization of 500 or more hotel room nights. Any booking policy and any
4 management agreement entered into by the public owner/operator shall require:

5 (1) That a priority category be created for local events, distinct from external
6 events.

7 (2) That the priority category for local events provide at a minimum that local
8 events cannot be blocked by tentative scheduling of other local events or
9 external events.

10 (3) That black-out periods be limited to periods of 30 days or less before and
11 after the event for local events and external events.

12 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.